

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**  
**July 17, 2018**

The Honorable Ralph DLG Torres  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the  
Northern Mariana Islands  
Caller Box 10007  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Torres:

You have not yet responded to my letter of June 12, recommending that you raise income thresholds, so that more families in the Marianas qualify for federal food assistance.

According to the financial projections given to me in May by the Department of Agriculture, in 2021 the Commonwealth government will still be holding \$10,135,655 of the \$30,500,000 that I put into the 2014 Agricultural Act, Public Law 113-79. And you will have another \$7,309,970 unused of the annual \$12,148,000 block grant that Congress appropriates.

It would be much better for those who need food—most of whom are children—as well as for the Marianas economy, if you were to spend those millions now, rather than hold on to the money indefinitely.

There could be hundreds of households with incomes between \$17,412 per year and \$25,000 that you have money to help. They are families earning minimum wage, on fixed incomes, and retirees.

Your administration has previously criticized me for not consulting with you on this issue. Yet, when I did consult with you in my June 12 letter, you failed even to acknowledge receipt.

More important, by your silence you fail to explain to the people of the Marianas why federal resources that should be ensuring families have enough to eat instead sit idle, unused. You owe these families an explanation.

Sincerely,



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Victor B. Hocog, Lt. Governor  
The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, President of the Senate  
The Honorable Rafael S. Demapan, Speaker of the House

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